MORGAN

CRAFTING HIGHLANDS' HISTORY

2016 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir

appellation:	SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
vineyard:	ROSELLA'S
rootstock:	110-14, 504, 5C
clones:	PISONI & DIJON 777
soils:	ARROYO SECO SANDY LOAM
climate:	VERY COOL, REGION I (UCD)
alcohol:	14.5%
acidity:	5.9 G/L
ph:	3.61
cooperage:	10 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK; 50% NEW
production:	99 CASES
retail price:	$64.00

THE GRAPE

Pinot Noir demands the most from winegrower and vintner. Here, a great vineyard and classic winemaking are perfectly matched.

THE PLACE

Rosella's Vineyard is among the most famed estates in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Planted by Gary Franscioni and his wife Rosella, their conscientious winegrowing and "Premier Cru" location yield top-flight Pinot Noir.

THE WINE

For years we have valued the consistent quality of Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir. Located three miles south of our own Double L estate, Rosella's is one of the top Pinot Noir vineyards in California. Planted in '96 to several Dijon clones as well as the famed "Pisoni" clone, Rosella's benefits from the eastern exposure of its Santa Lucia Highlands benchland location. Fog and cooling breezes from the Monterey Bay combined with well-drained alluvial soils make-up Rosella's famed terroir.

The spring and summer were mild with no extreme cold or hot periods, but mildew control was a challenge. Happily, no rain in the fall resulted in clean fruit, and was harvested on September 10th.

THE WINE

The grapes were completely destemmed after hand sorting, and fermented in open top tanks. Manual punch downs provided for supple texture and soft tannins. The wine was transferred to a combination of medium and medium-plus toast Burgundy barrels, 50% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and 10 months of aging.

Deep and concentrated, this limited production Pinot Noir showcases aromas of black cherry, tobacco leaf, and nutmeg with flavors of brambleberry and dried fig. Well integrated, layered tannins suggest this wine will age very well. The '16 Rosella's Pinot Noir will prove a perfect match for rib roast, lamb chops or just about anything off the grill.

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